

Sustainable CoMo

Sustainable CoMo will leverage existing resources of community agencies with those of the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities to plan a strong, sustainable future for all residents within the Columbia Metropolitan area.

Sustainable CoMo requests to conduct a comprehensive planning process to assess the needs of the region, especially of our underserved populations, with respect to housing, transportation, energy, and natural resources. The City of Columbia Metropolitan area experienced significant growth in the last ten years. The population of the metro area at the 2010 census was 134,572, a 22% increase from the last census estimate. Projections indicate that this rate of growth will continue well into the future.

Sustainable CoMo's project budget is \$642,500. The consortium is requesting a grant of \$500,000 from the Sustainable Communities Planning grant. It is expected that financial and in-kind contributions of the members will meet or exceed the grant's 20% match requirement.

Example of need: A need that has arisen in the development of the pre-application is the ability of our underserved population to maintain affordable housing. While a great deal of new housing development has taken place, poorer segments of the population often buy or rent in the older, established neighborhoods throughout the metropolitan area. These older houses are often not outfitted with energy-saving features. For residents whose budgets are already strained to simply pay their mortgage or rent, high utility bills can significantly reduce money available for food and other necessities. Additionally, residents in these older neighborhoods incur additional transportation expenses because they live beyond walking distance of needed goods, services, and jobs. Creating energy efficient solutions to these housing and transportation issues not only promotes more affordable and sustainable living for residents of established neighborhoods, but also preserves and protects natural resources. Numerous diverse agencies and organizations in the metropolitan area seek solutions to these issues. There is a need for these agencies to work collaboratively so that scarce resources and services do not overlap, and programs and services benefiting the community are maximized.

Project Geography

The Columbia Metropolitan Area includes the City of Columbia and the surrounding areas in unincorporated Boone County that are projected to urbanize within the next 20 years. The population of the metro area at the 2010 census was 134,572.

Stakeholders

All of the stakeholders for *Sustainable CoMo* possess varying commitments to advance the Livability Principles set forth from the Sustainable Communities program. The stakeholders will build upon their existing capacity resources to advance the Columbia Metropolitan area to a strong, sustainable future.

- The City of Columbia, through its Water and Light, Public Works, and Sustainability Departments, currently administer and continue to develop new programs to address barriers to sustainable living.
- The Central Missouri Community Action Center is a regional non-profit agency whose mission is to "empower individuals and families to achieve self-reliance."

Pre-Application for Sustainable Communities Planning grant

City of Columbia Metropolitan area

Narrative Statement

- Services it provides, among others, are financial assistance with utility and rental costs, weatherization education and assistance, and development of affordable housing.
- The Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) was created in 1964 and designated as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor of Missouri. As the designated MPO, the Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization is responsible for ensuring a coordinated transportation planning process with the Metropolitan area.
 - Boone County, Missouri's guiding principle ensures that land use decisions should be guided by the availability of existing services and the environmental impacts of growth.
 - Boone Electric Cooperative and AmerenUE, providers of utility services in the metropolitan area.
 - PedNet is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and promoting the use of a pedestrian and pedaling network throughout Columbia. This system will provide health, quality-of-life, economic, and environmental benefits to the community.
 - The Columbia Housing Authority, provides safe, healthy, and affordable housing opportunities to low-income individuals and families.

Sustainable CoMo requests a Sustainable communities Planning grant to conduct a comprehensive planning process to assess the needs of the region, especially of our underserved populations, with respect to housing, transportation, energy, and natural resources.